

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSF-01

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01

PRS-01 /087 W

----- 122485

R 192132Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7294

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3113

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV CA

SUBJ: SMITH COMMENTS ON RICHELIEU-CHAMPLAIN REGULATION

1. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING ON GARRISON DIVERSION REFERENCE (SEPTTEL) SHORTLIFFE MENTIONED COMMENTS OF HENRY P. SMITH, IJC US CHAIRMAN, MADE AT BURLINGTON VT 8 AUG. SMITH, ACCORDING TO AP WIRE MADE AVAILABLE BY EXTAF, REVEALED TO PRESS GIST OF RECENT US NOTE ON NEW CANADIAN REGULATION PLAN, BUT IN INACCURATE AND STRONG TERMS. SHORTLIFFE SAID THIS ITEM HAS NOT BEEN HELPFUL, AND JOKINGLY COMPARED INCIDENT WITH TROUBLES EXTAF FINDS GENERATED BY UNINTENTIONAL LEAKS OF CONFIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF SMITH'S CANADIAN COUNTERPART. US SIDE INDICATED SMITH HAD BEEN BRIEFED ORALLY ON CURRENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND CONTENTS OF US NOTE, ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. TEXT OF AP WIRE FOLLOWS. END CONFIDENTIAL.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN TEXT: "THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HAS DISMISSED AS "COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE".. A CANADIAN FLOOD-CONTROL PROPOSAL FOR THE RICHELIEU RIVER, SAYS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION. HENRY SMITH III, CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE US-CANADIAN GROUP WHICH OVERSEES BOUNDARY WATERS, SAID THURSDAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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CANADA NOT MAKE AN APPLICATION TO THE IJC ON THE BASIS

OF ITS RECENT PROPOSAL.

"SMITH SAID MEMBERS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT WERE BRIEFED JULY 28 ON THE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT BY THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN CANADA'S DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

"HE SAID THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED AT THAT TIME WAS REJECTED BY THE U.S. BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE PERMANENTLY LOWERED THE LEVEL OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN, WHICH FEEDS THE RICHELIEU RIVER.

"CANADA IS UNDERTAKING STUDIES OF THREE GENERAL FLOOD CONTROL CONCEPTS FOR A PROPOSED DAM AT ST. HEAN, QUE., ABOUT 25 MILES NORTH OF THE VERMONT-CANADIAN BORDER.

"THE PLANS HAVE RAISED CONCERNS IN THE U.S. AMONG ENVIRONMENTALISTS WHO FEAR THE FLOOD-CONTROL PROJECT WILL ALTER THE LAKE LEVEL AND UPSET THE ENVIRONMENTAL BALANCE IN SURROUNDING WETLANDS.

"THE PROPOSAL OPPOSED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT CALLED FOR DREDGING THE RIVER AT ST. JEAN AND OPERATING AN UNUSED DAM AT FRYER'S ISLAND BUILT IN 1937.

"THE IJC MEETS WITH THE VERMONT-BASED LAKE CHAMPLAIN COMMITTEE SATURDAY IN SHELBURNE TO DISCUSS THE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT."
END TEXT. END UNCLASSIFIED.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA03113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750287-0264
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750840/aaaabins.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SMITH COMMENTS ON RICHELIEU-CHAMPLAIN REGULATION
TAGS: SENV, CA, US, IJC, (SMITH, HENRY P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006